

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-20 and 22-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 14-20, 24 and 25 are presently withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Specification was objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action states that the specification does not provide enablement for "A" being a radical derived from homo- or copolyoxymethylene, $-(CH_2-O)_x$. As the Examiner states, in the case of $x=1$, formula (I) becomes:



wherein two oxygens are bonded together.

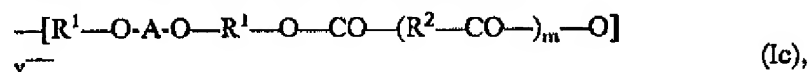
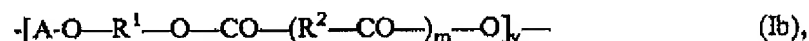
In response, Applicants note that $R-O-O-R'$ compounds are known in the art generally as organic peroxides. Thus, a compound containing an O-O bond does not violate any general rules of chemistry as the Examiner seems to indicate. Regardless, however, the specification and the claims each define "A" as "a radical derived from a homo- or copolyoxymethylene." While the specification goes on to indicate that radical "A" may include various repeat units (particularly at least 50 mol%, preferably at least 80 mol%, in particular at least 90 mol% of oxymethylene units $-(CH_2-O)-$), nowhere does Applicant indicate that "A" is strictly oxymethylene units (or combination of different units) wherein the linkage of "A" to the remainder of formula (I) is by a O-O bond.

Furthermore, even if the "A" radical were bonded to the remainder of formula (I) with an oxymethylene unit, one skilled in the art appreciates that the carbon atom of the oxymethylene unit would generally bond to the oxygen, not the oxygen atom. In other words, if A were a single oxymethylene unit, general formula (I) would become:



Moreover, Applicants further explain that a carbon atom links to the oxygen atom of formula (I) at pg. 5, lines 19-21. As noted, "(a)t each end of a radical A there are carbon atoms which bear end groups or which have linkage to at least one other radical A by way of chain-linking agent." Thus, at one end of radical A, a carbon atom is linked to chain-linking agent (i.e. the remainder of formula (I)) which links to another carbon atom of a second radical A. The opposing ends of the two A radicals may contain end groups completing the polymer or link to additional A radicals via chain-linking agent. Indeed, this is further explained in the specification at pg. 8, line 31 – pg. 9, line 4:

[0047] Two or more radicals A are linked to one another via the chain-linkage reaction and then have the structure of the formula Ia, or repeat structural units of the formula Ib, or repeat structural units of the formula Ic



where A, R^1 , R^2 , R^4 ; and m are defined as at an earlier stage above, R^4 assumes one of the definitions given for R^4 , and y is a whole number which is at least 2.

Thus, again, as noted at pg. 5, lines 19-21, "(a)t each end of a radical A there are carbon atoms which bear end groups (i.e. R^4 in formula (Ia)) or which have linkage to at least one other radical A by way of chain linking agent." As such, in formula (1a), a carbon atom in radical A links to end group R^4 on one end, while a second carbon atom at the opposite end of radical A links to the oxygen atom of the chain linking agent.

Thus, respectfully, Applicants respectfully submit that component "A" is fully enabled to one skilled in the art as one skilled in the art would appreciate that radical A

is "derived from a homo- or copolyoxymethylene" and a carbon atom at one end of radical A links to the oxygen atom of the chain linking agent. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Additionally, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph due to the enablement objection to the specification. For the reasons noted above, Applicants submit that the specification is enabled to one skilled in the art regarding element "A" in general formula (I) and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

As such, it is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested. Examiner Truong is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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